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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1910.

ANCE TO DO A GRACEFUL

The Common Council showed its last night by passing the ordinance for consolidation with Manchester and the face of an opposition that powerful and influential, if not the representative. We are convinced that its decision is indorsed and preceded by an overwhelming majority of the citizens of Richmond. In formal course of events there are only remain the concurrence in Aldermen and the popular vote in Manchester to make consolidation effective for all time. But unfortunately opposition has developed at this moment from a small group of citizens, who declare that they will insist on carrying the matter to a vote of the people.

There might be nothing serious in this decision, barring the trouble and expense, were it not for the fact that it involves we do not know how much delay. Delay happens to be the Richmond's interests just now, to get up the new list of qualified electors, to call and hold the election would likely take three months' time, would mean that the new population would not possibly get into the new States census, and that has been one of the chief aims Richmond held before her from the beginning. Consolidation might win three or four, but the fruits of victory would be lost. The final delay would be a crippling and broken it.

The Council last night properly rejected a proposal to submit the issue to a vote of the people. It seems to be the small hand of citizens who in mass-meeting the other night, to do a graceful thing by withdrawing their intention to work for a vote. We believe that they are not so much to be commended as they are of their work would be the ending of the plan upon which the abilities have so long been at work. Consolidation movement has been going on for a year or more; the terms have been known in general for many months; and in all this time have never heard the voices of citizens raised in protest. Their objection comes at the final and vital moment. All the mouthpieces of public opinion are against them, the commercial associations, all the newspapers, the merchants and men's organizations, and to the number, all the important going houses of Richmond but one. However, every citizen has a right to his own views and try to provide his own legitimate interests. But circumstances being what they are, the chance to further private interest is so small and the opportunity to damage the public interest being so great, we think these citizens could generally welcome thing by submitting their own wishes in what is so evidently to be the wishes of the majority.

SHADOWING THE PRIMARY

We heartily congratulate the Committee on Privileges and Elections on its decision to report the Byrd bill favorably, coupled with unfavorable report on all the other party bills. There was a bill before the committee having illegitimate claims to being "official," inasmuch as it was framed by a small subcommittee of the State Committee, and the law showed their independence as to their sound judgment in rejecting this offering along with the others. If the State Committee tried to register its hostility to the primary idea, as some observers have fought, by putting forward a bill as near nothing as the law could evolve, it clearly oversteered itself. If it had offered a better and stronger law, its offering would have found favor, but because it was forward only the imperfectment of a law, the legislative committee has passed it by altogether. Deal and Deal bills went the way.

THE PRIMARY

The four primary bills submitted to the Legislature, the Byrd bill is really the most comprehensive, the vigorous and the best. It started as decidedly the nearest approach to perfect primary law we have yet in Virginia, and it still is that. It has been weakened a good deal in its progress toward enactment, the compulsory feature was "killed" by the patron himself. This is in the nature of a tub to the sea. We ourselves liked the compulsory feature much better in than but opposition to it was very strong, and the sacrifice of it was made under the circumstances. Now the committee has tackled on two other amendments, both of which tend to take from the force and value of the bill. One of these—borrowed from the bill—is to the effect that primary officials shall be appointed by district boards from lists submitted by the parties, and that in case only one party holds a primary the officials shall all be drawn from that party. The original Byrd bill provided that the officials in primary elections should be the same as those in a regular election, which seems to us a better arrangement. But this is of minor importance, compared to the other amendment, which we consider very bad indeed.

THE BYRD BILL

The Byrd bill laid down the law as to who is eligible to vote in a primary, which is what every primary law should do. It provided that no person could vote in a primary unless he had voted for certain specified candidates of that party in the last general election; provided that, if the applicant had not voted in the last general election at all, his pledge to support the nominees of the primary in the ensuing election should be held sufficient to entitle him to vote in the primary. The committee amendment virtually cancels this last clause by making the special provision for men who did not vote in the last election applicable to all men, with whichever party they voted, and thus entirely nullifies and vitiates the other restrictive provisions.

It provides "that when questioned by the judges, if he shall pledge himself to support the nominees of the party in the ensuing election he shall be allowed to vote." This could hardly be worse. It not only permits, but directly legalizes the voting of Republicans in Democratic primaries. Under this provision any qualified voter could present himself at the election booth and upon giving the pledge mentioned above demand the right to vote. If the judges questioned him about his previous and probable future affiliations, he could decline to answer. His blanket privilege covers and protects him; it is none of their business; and though he may be known as a lifelong Republican and openly announce that he intends to continue so after that particular election is over—in which his party has no candidate, and therefore he has nothing to lose by helping out the Democratic friend—the judges will be compelled by law to vote him. Now this is simply absurd. Republicans have no right at all to take part in Democratic primaries, and for Democrats to enact laws compelling their admittance is preposterous. Democratic primaries are for Democrats only, and no transient willingness to vote with Democrats, for once, to gain a special end, can be accepted as changing a Republican's spots. We have just seen how the present laxity is abused, in the Fourth District congressional race, where Republicans notoriously altered and swelled the Democratic vote, though in all probability they did not change the result. We don't want to legalize this kind of political hybridism, which would be the sure forerunner of the defeat of Democratic candidates in a Democratic primary by Republican votes. The Legislature should by all means kill the committee amendment and move in just the other way. It should keep the other parts of the Byrd section intact and provide for the applicant who did not take part in the last election that he must make a statement that he intends henceforward to vote with the party into whose primary he seeks admittance.

THE TIMES-DISPATCH

The Times-Dispatch hopes that the Legislature may think these important considerations worth their attention. Meantime this paper congratulates that body upon having before it a bill calculated to give Virginia a primary law worthy of the name.

CAPTAIN WILLARD'S RESIGNATION

The Corporation Commission will miss Captain Willard. He brought to his work in that important tribunal a mind naturally well equipped and ripened by experience with affairs, and he enhanced his usefulness by close study until he became peculiarly fitted, in theory and in practice, for the discharge of his high duties. While unassuming in manner and putting forward no claims for himself, he has, we believe, come to be recognized by the public and by his colleagues as the most thoroughly versed member of the commission on technical questions of railroad taxation and control.

IF CAPTAIN WILLARD'S RESIGNATION

means that he intends to retire from public life, which we sincerely hope it does not, the State will be even a heavier loser than is the commission now. Representing as he does a class of men not usually found in public office, Mr. Willard has had unusual opportunities for good, and he has shown a most commendable desire to make the most of those opportunities in serving the Commonwealth. At a time when Virginia's government needs more men of his exceptionally high character and standing, she can ill afford to spare him from her public life.

SISKIYOU

Siskiyou is not the name of a Pullman car or a two-for-a-quarter collar, or yet again of a patent rheumatism cure. It is the cognomen of a proposed new member of the galaxy of States, to be carved out of certain parts of Oregon and California. California is a large State, equal to about five Maines and seventy-five Delawares, and because of its position as well as its size is not thoroughly homogeneous and unified. Before now we have read of plans to split off the Southern half of it into a new State, with Los Angeles as its capital, but that plan has never gotten very far forward. This rival movement, attached to the outlandish and barbarous name, shows that Californians are dissatisfied with their California-ship in the North as well as the South. Apparently Southern Oregon is also insurgent and half-ready to secede and merge.

There will be a convention soon

among those interested to discuss and further this odd plan. How the convention will be made up and what weight its "senses" will carry, we don't know. Presumably anybody can attend who happens to have nothing better to do. A plebiscite ought to be held in the affected districts, and, if it were, we believe that the majority would be found against the change. We hope so. It is doubtful if the country wants any more subdivided States—even with the consent of the subdividers—though we'll probably find it desirable to trim Texas some day. California is young as well as big, and with increasing maturity her scattered and disagreeing population will doubtless learn to dwell together in unity. A compound California-Oregon State would not be generally desired in any case, we think, and particularly when afflicted with such an unchristian name. We could put up with a State named Columbia or even Glory-Hallelujah, but Siskiyou is coming it a little too strong. "The Senator from Siskiyou" might disturb the composure of even the iron-brained linotypers who set up the Congressional Record.

Borrowed Singles

When it's time to leave the blankets, and get out upon the floor, that's as cold as any bed. Near the frigid Greenland shore Start the kitchen fire to blaze. But the bed on and so warm And to feed the cows and horses. "Wadin' through the drifted snow. Then it is feel in him. O love for country life. And there comes a kind of yearning For the city and its strife.

WINTER ON THE FARM

When the water begins to freeze To the kitchen table light. And the housewife's whizzing Through a broken window light. When there's frost upon the doorknob And at every crack and crevice. With my arms by the cook stove Frozen solid to the zinc. Then a city flat seems better. Where the steam heat thrills all night. With a janitor in the basement. Scoping in the anthracite. —Chicago News.

MERELY JOKING

The Alternative.
 "Let's go to the theatre?"
 "The theatre? To see what?"
 "Then we'll go to the opera."—Lippincott's.

A Mother's Anxiety

Willie: "Ma, can I go out on the street for a little while? Tommy Jones says there's a comet to be seen."
 Mother: "Well, yes; but don't you go too near."—Boston Transcript.

A Flat Calamity

"Good heavens! What is the matter?"
 "The people of the second story have gone away and left their auto-planes playing."—Pittsburg Blatter.

She Likes It So

"How old are you, my dear?"
 "Eight at home; seven and a half when you go by railroad; and when I go out with mamma, I'm Vivian."—

Bad and Bloom

"You used to say, dad, that I was a budding genius."
 "Well, you turned out to be a blooming idiot."—Cleveland Leader.

The Very Help Wanted

"I would like to help you, my poor man, but I haven't much work to give you. You say you want to be a ground, mamam? I don't want much."—Squire.

He'll Keep His

"I should very much like to know how you made that \$5 the other day."
 "Can you keep a secret?"
 "Oh, yes."
 "So can I. Good-night!"—Comic Cuts.

PERTINENT POINTS

If the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation should last nineteen years, as a committee member would ask, that is long or would it be gobbled by the Guggenheims in advance of the finding of the court?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The insurgents are now lacking President Taft's policy. Yes, what does that mean? Congress, Taft, Charles Townsend, of Michigan, to back?—Detroit Journal.

Speaker Cannon might paraphrase a certain well-known axiom and exclaim, "I care not who is going, so I can name his judge."—Wilmington Star.

"Comet A1905" is not expected to even approach the earth, but what does that mean? It is expected to drop as far out of sight as Tudyard Kipling or Anthony Hope—Chicago Record-Herald.

Everywhere we are warned to beware of cold-storage foods, shortwaxed and bolted. Why bolt with burglar insurance?—Brooklyn Eagle.

How much would Citizen Wiley's airy reflections on farmers and eggs bring if sold by weight?—Washington Post.

Perry thinks Roosevelt would be a good man to send out for the purpose of discovering the South Pole.—Chicago Record-Herald.

ONE VOTE RECEIVED BY LORD FAIRFAX

His Friends Say He Must Have Cast That for Himself.

EPISODE OF LATE ELECTION

Lord Clinton One of Oldest Peers and Largest Landowners in England.

BY LA MARQUA DE FONTENAY.
 LORD FAIRFAX, the only British peer who was an American citizen, received one solitary vote at the election of the sixteen representative peers of Scotland, which took place, with old-time pomp and ceremony, in the Palace of Holyrood the other day, and Lord Fairfax's friends are bantering him a good deal about that one vote, insisting that he must have cast it himself. The Scotch peers, on the occasion of each general election, choose, in accordance to a summons from the crown, sixteen of their members to represent the Scottish peerage in the House of Lords at Westminster. The sixteen who have just been selected are: The Earls of Mar, of Rothes, of Argyll, Mar and Kellie, of Livingston, Lord Lauderdale, of Carnwath, of Northesk and of Dundonald, Viscount Falkland, and the Lords Saltoun, Sinclair, Belhaven, and Semple, the latter defeating Lord Torphichen, who has hitherto figured as one of the principal Scottish peers.

These sixteen peers are exclusively Scottish, that is to say, they do not carry with them, as the English peers do, the influence of their seats in the House of Lords, and the place there during the new Parliament now about to be opened, will be entirely owing to their election. The election, however, is not a free one. The lords through their possession of English peerages, or so-called "English" peerages, are permitted to take part, and among those who voted at Holyrood the other day were the Duke of Devonshire, of Devonshire and of Athol, Lord Rosebery, Lord Glasgow, Lord Broadbaird, and several others. Eighteen peers were in attendance, but only sixteen others had sent their votes in writing; that is to say, there were less than three-score peers represented, which leaves the majority of the fact often pointed out in these letters that the Scotch peerage is diminishing in numbers and is gradually disappearing from the House of Lords.

The election took place in the presence of the principal judges and law dignitaries of the Northern kingdom, and the Lord of the Scottish peerage, the Earl of Mar, who was the only one of the Scotch peers to take part in the proceedings with prayer, and to read a close of the roll call pronounced by the dean of the Scotch Order of the Thistle. There was the customary protest, the Earl of Mar and Kellie being called before the Earl of Mar, on the ground that the earldom of Mar was a peerage of the crown, and that the Earl of Mar was not entitled to take part in the proceedings.

A Big Landowner.
 Lord Clinton, who has just rented his Bilton Park estate in Devonshire to William Northampton, of St. Louis, for a term of years, a place extending over some 12,000 acres, with splendid fishing in the River Otter, is one of the largest landowners in England, besides holding one of the oldest peerages in the United Kingdom. Indeed, he counts only four other peers in his barony, which was created in 1298, and of which he is the twenty-first holder. As is the case with the very few other hereditary peers, he descends through the female line, and in this way has passed through marriage from the original house of Clinton into the hands of the family, to which Lord Clinton belongs. Lord Clinton has no son, but only two daughters, the elder of whom, the Hon. Elizabeth, has just become engaged to young H. N. Fane, of the Coldstream Guards, son of the late Sir Edmund Fane, who was British ambassador at Constantinople.

If the Hon. Elizabeth were an only child she would inherit her father's barony of Clinton at his death without any doubt. But as she has a sister, the barony will fall into abeyance and remain there until the so-called abeyance is terminated by the birth of a son to the Hon. Elizabeth. If there is one person who through successive deaths ends by representing the claims of the ancient house of Clinton, it is Lord Clinton, whose barony was created in 1298, and of which he is the twenty-first holder. As is the case with the very few other hereditary peers, he descends through the female line, and in this way has passed through marriage from the original house of Clinton into the hands of the family, to which Lord Clinton belongs. Lord Clinton has no son, but only two daughters, the elder of whom, the Hon. Elizabeth, has just become engaged to young H. N. Fane, of the Coldstream Guards, son of the late Sir Edmund Fane, who was British ambassador at Constantinople.

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Lord Clinton One of Oldest Peers and Largest Landowners in England.

BY LA MARQUA DE FONTENAY.
 LORD FAIRFAX, the only British peer who was an American citizen, received one solitary vote at the election of the sixteen representative peers of Scotland, which took place, with old-time pomp and ceremony, in the Palace of Holyrood the other day, and Lord Fairfax's friends are bantering him a good deal about that one vote, insisting that he must have cast it himself. The Scotch peers, on the occasion of each general election, choose, in accordance to a summons from the crown, sixteen of their members to represent the Scottish peerage in the House of Lords at Westminster. The sixteen who have just been selected are: The Earls of Mar, of Rothes, of Argyll, Mar and Kellie, of Livingston, Lord Lauderdale, of Carnwath, of Northesk and of Dundonald, Viscount Falkland, and the Lords Saltoun, Sinclair, Belhaven, and Semple, the latter defeating Lord Torphichen, who has hitherto figured as one of the principal Scottish peers.

These sixteen peers are exclusively Scottish, that is to say, they do not carry with them, as the English peers do, the influence of their seats in the House of Lords, and the place there during the new Parliament now about to be opened, will be entirely owing to their election. The election, however, is not a free one. The lords through their possession of English peerages, or so-called "English" peerages, are permitted to take part, and among those who voted at Holyrood the other day were the Duke of Devonshire, of Devonshire and of Athol, Lord Rosebery, Lord Glasgow, Lord Broadbaird, and several others. Eighteen peers were in attendance, but only sixteen others had sent their votes in writing; that is to say, there were less than three-score peers represented, which leaves the majority of the fact often pointed out in these letters that the Scotch peerage is diminishing in numbers and is gradually disappearing from the House of Lords.

The election took place in the presence of the principal judges and law dignitaries of the Northern kingdom, and the Lord of the Scottish peerage, the Earl of Mar, who was the only one of the Scotch peers to take part in the proceedings with prayer, and to read a close of the roll call pronounced by the dean of the Scotch Order of the Thistle. There was the customary protest, the Earl of Mar and Kellie being called before the Earl of Mar, on the ground that the earldom of Mar was a peerage of the crown, and that the Earl of Mar was not entitled to take part in the proceedings.

A Big Landowner.
 Lord Clinton, who has just rented his Bilton Park estate in Devonshire to William Northampton, of St. Louis, for a term of years, a place extending over some 12,000 acres, with splendid fishing in the River Otter, is one of the largest landowners in England, besides holding one of the oldest peerages in the United Kingdom. Indeed, he counts only four other peers in his barony, which was created in 1298, and of which he is the twenty-first holder. As is the case with the very few other hereditary peers, he descends through the female line, and in this way has passed through marriage from the original house of Clinton into the hands of the family, to which Lord Clinton belongs. Lord Clinton has no son, but only two daughters, the elder of whom, the Hon. Elizabeth, has just become engaged to young H. N. Fane, of the Coldstream Guards, son of the late Sir Edmund Fane, who was British ambassador at Constantinople.

If the Hon. Elizabeth were an only child she would inherit her father's barony of Clinton at his death without any doubt. But as she has a sister, the barony will fall into abeyance and remain there until the so-called abeyance is terminated by the birth of a son to the Hon. Elizabeth. If there is one person who through successive deaths ends by representing the claims of the ancient house of Clinton, it is Lord Clinton, whose barony was created in 1298, and of which he is the twenty-first holder. As is the case with the very few other hereditary peers, he descends through the female line, and in this way has passed through marriage from the original house of Clinton into the hands of the family, to which Lord Clinton belongs. Lord Clinton has no son, but only two daughters, the elder of whom, the Hon. Elizabeth, has just become engaged to young H. N. Fane, of the Coldstream Guards, son of the late Sir Edmund Fane, who was British ambassador at Constantinople.

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